

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **UTAH LEADS NATION IN VOLUNTEERISM**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OREM, Utah**--June 4, 2004--Utah has the highest rate of adult volunteers in the nation, according to a national study--something the Utah Commission on Volunteers is proud to see recognized.

Research released on Tuesday by the Points of Light Foundation and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis revealed that 46.8 percent of adults in Utah volunteer, six percent higher than any other state in the nation.

Scott Snow, executive director of the Utah Commission on Volunteers, attributes the state's high volunteer rate to a spirit of service and the 20 Volunteer Centers throughout the state.

"Utahns have a desire to serve their communities and Volunteer Centers play an important role in connecting individuals with volunteer opportunities," Snow said.

Volunteer Centers are specifically designed to connect people with the type of volunteer opportunities for which they are best suited. In Utah, nearly every county has its own Volunteer Center.

"What this research uncovered is that in states where there are more Volunteer Centers in comparison to the overall population, there are higher rates of volunteering; in states where there is a lower proportion of Volunteer Centers to the population, volunteering rates are lower," said Christopher Cihlar, director of program evaluation for the Points of Light Foundation. Volunteers recruited through Volunteer Centers nationally contribute approximately \$2.71 billion in volunteer time annually.

For information on making a difference in Utah through volunteerism, contact your local Volunteer Center at 1-800-250-SERVE or [www.ILiveToGive.org](http://www.ILiveToGive.org).

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